

AAFL RULES OF COMPETITION

2005

1. COMMITTEE

- 1.1. Refer to Constitution

2. TRIBUNAL

- 2.1. Refer to Appendix "A"

3. FINES

- 3.1. All fines as stated

4. BEHAVIOUR OF OFFICIALS

- 4.1. All Officials of Teams and Clubs are answerable to the AAFL.

5. CORRESPONDENCE AND TEAM PAPERWORK

- 5.1. Team paperwork shall be handed to the officiating umpire(s) on the day of the match
- 5.2. It shall be the responsibility of the each team to submit team sheets, signed by all players to the Umpires. In both the Seniors and the Reserves competition, the original (top) team sheet is to be handed to the umpire at full time. The middle copy shall be handed to the opposition at half time. The bottom copy is to be retained by the Club for its records.
- 5.3. Team Managers must attend the Umpires at the conclusion of each match and must ensure the relevant paperwork is signed by the Umpires after each match.
- 5.4. In the event of Clubs continuing to submit incorrect paperwork, a fine of \$10 per offence up to a maximum of \$30 per week shall be imposed.
- 5.5. All correspondence shall be directed to The Secretary AAFL.
- 5.6. Only players involved in the match may sign the team sheet. Infringement of this rule will incur penalty as in 23.1

6. REGISTRATION

- 6.1. Clubs are required to register all players on the supplied form.
- 6.2. Clubs must have the approval of the AAFL Executive to register more than six Australian Origin players.

7. CLEARANCES

- 7.1. The AAFL Executive must be notified by the Secretaries of each Club of any clearances involving those Clubs.

8. UNIFORMS

- 8.1. Should there be a clash of jumpers between two competing Teams, the visiting Team shall change their jumpers.
- 8.2. Any proposed change of team uniform must be approved by the AAFL in writing before it is worn in competition.

9. TIMES AND DURATION OF PLAY

- 9.1. Senior matches usually commence at 2 pm Reserves 12:45pm.
- 9.2. Provided both Clubs drawn to play each other contact the AAFL Executive at least one week prior to the match being played, then matches may be played at an alternate time or venue. Subject to there being no interference with other matches. Both Clubs must also confirm this in writing to the AAFL Executive by the Tuesday prior to the match being confirmed.
- 9.3. A time limit of fifteen minutes after the official start time shall be allowed for Clubs being late. After which period of time the match may be claimed at the option of the opposing club.
- 9.4. Match Duration:
 - 9.4.i. Senior matches shall have four quarters of twenty minutes with no time on except finals which are to be four quarters of twenty minutes plus time-on for goals.
 - 9.4.ii. Reserve matches shall have two halves of twenty minutes with no time on, except for the grand final which is to be two halves of twenty minutes plus time on
- 9.5. The quarter time break shall be three minutes, half time fifteen and three quarter time five minutes.
- 9.6. The Field Umpires may shorten the half and/or three quarter time breaks if the match is behind schedule, or at his discretion.

10. FOOTBALLS

- 10.1. The Home Team shall provide two footballs, both in good condition, for selection by the visiting Team. The ball not selected shall be used in emergencies.
- 10.2. If, in the opinion of the umpires the footballs are not up to standard, they shall be replaced by the Umpires who shall carry a reserve football for such instances.
- 10.3. Any Club that does not provide a suitable ball twice in a season will be fined an amount equal to the cost of a new football.

11. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- 11.1.i. Each Senior Team shall be allowed eighteen players on the field plus unlimited reserves for rounds 1-5, and four reserves for rounds 6-10. If both captains agree more than the stated number of reserves may be played.
- 11.1.ii. Reserve grade matches will be of fourteen players on the field per team, with six reserves. More than fourteen on the field or more than six reserves can be played if both captains agree and inform the umpires.
- 11.2. Minimum Numbers:
 - 11.2.i. Both Senior teams must have at least fourteen players in attendance for the match to be played.
 - 11.2.ii. Both Reserve Teams must have at least **twelve** players in attendance for the match to be played. If a team does not have twelve players present ten minutes after the advertised start time, they will lose the match by default.
- 11.3. A player can play in both senior and reserve grade matches. Each team may field unlimited players in both senior and reserve matches in Rounds 1-5 but not field more than six players in both senior and reserve matches in Rounds 6-10.

12. INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS

- 12.1. Players may be interchanged at any time during the match.
- 12.2. Players must enter and leave the field in front of the coaches area, as designated by the Umpires.
- 12.3. An injured player may leave the field at any point of the boundary.

13. ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY IN FINALS

- 13.1.i. A player shall be deemed eligible to play in finals by having played 3 home and away matches during that season with the club that is participating in the finals. A player who has played 5 home and away matches or more with the Senior team of that club that is participating in the Finals is ineligible to play for the Reserves of that Club during the Finals Series
- 13.1.ii. Reserves: A player shall be deemed eligible to play in the finals by having played 3 home and away matches during that season with the club that is participating in the finals. A player that has played 5 or more home and away matches with the Senior team of that club that is participating in the finals is ineligible to play for the Reserves team of that Club during the Finals series.
- 13.2. A reserve grade game in the home and away season counts towards the three matches necessary to compete in the senior finals. Playing in the reserves and in the seniors for matches in the same round, counts as one match played for finals qualification.

14. ORDERING OFF THE FIELD

- 14.1. Field Umpires shall have the power to order from the field for a set period of TEN MINUTES playing time (does not include 1/4, 1/2, 3/4 time breaks) a player who commits a misdemeanour.
- 14.2. A player ordered off cannot be replaced.
- 14.3. When ordering the player off the Umpire shall indicate to the timekeeper of the ordering off is for ten minutes, or for the remainder of the match. The timekeeper shall note the time, number and team of the ordered off player. The captain of the team of the ordered off player may approach the Umpire to ascertain why the player was ordered off.
- 14.4. Any player ordered off twice in one match shall be automatically reported and may not be replaced for the remainder of the match, nor may he return to the field.
- 14.5. If the breach of the rules is serious enough, in the Umpires opinion, the player can be sent off immediately for the remainder of the match.

15. UMPIRES

- 15.1. When no Goal or Boundary Umpires are appointed to a match, each side must supply a goal and boundary umpire. Each side must supply a white coat and two flags for the goal and a whistle for the boundary umpire.
- 15.2. Goal and boundary umpires must be at least 16 years of age.
- 15.3. Field Umpires must be escorted off the field at half time and after the game, by an Official from the Home side. The Official must be introduced to the Field Umpire prior to the game.
- 15.4. Each Team shall be required to complete a constructive report on the Field Umpires performance and forward it along with their paperwork to the AAFL Secretary.
- 15.5. If possible an independent appraisal of the performance of the Umpires shall be made by a suitable person.
- 15.6. A senior player from each club is to umpire the reserve matches with the assistance of an AAFL umpire.

16. SCORES

- 16.1. Reserve and Senior scores shall be phoned to Rob Malone on 526 5483 or emailed to rmalone@nz afl.co.nz, by the team manager of the home team by 9:00am Monday.

17. RUNNER

- 17.1. The Team Runner shall be identified by wearing a jacket with "RUNNER" clearly printed on the jacket or an arm band approved by the AAFL.
- 17.2. Only one Team Runner from each team is permitted on the field at any time.
- 17.3. Only one Team Trainer from each team is permitted on the field at any time, except in the case of injury.

18. NOTIFICATION OF UMPIRES

- 18.1. The Umpires Advisor shall notify the AAFL Secretary each Thursday prior to the weekends matches which Umpires will be officiating.

19. NOTIFICATION OF REPORTED PLAYERS

- 19.1. The Umpires Advisor shall inform the AAFL Secretary of any report by 6pm on matchday.

20. AAFL CLUB MEETING

- 20.1. All Clubs competing in the AAFL will be required to attend meetings when notified by the AAFL Executive.

21. HOME AND AWAY FIXTURES

- 21.1. The AAFL Executive shall set the draw for Home & Away matches, as well as arranging the date, time and venues for Finals.

22. PROTESTS

- 22.1. All protests must be lodged in writing on a Club letterhead and accompanied by a \$100 deposit, which shall be forfeited if that protest is considered frivolous.
- 22.2. Every protest in respect of a match, together with the deposit, is to be in the hands of the AAFL Executive no later than 12 noon on the Tuesday after the match in question.

23. NON ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- 23.1. Any Club found guilty of playing a non-eligible player under the rules of the AAFL shall lose match points plus all scores in the matches in which he/they played, and are liable to be fined, or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the AAFL Executive.
- 23.2. Any Club playing a registered or unregistered player under the name of another registered player shall in addition to the penalty set out in 23.1 incur a further fine and penalty.
- 23.3. Opposing Teams shall be awarded the match points plus the top percentage of the day.

24. FORFEITURE OF MATCHES

- 24.1. Any Club competing in the AAFL that forfeits a match without reasonable excuse and notification, shall lose two premiership points and have the highest winning percentage awarded against them.
- 24.2. The Team that is awarded the match shall be credited with the highest winning percentage of that day.
- 24.3. The Team that is awarded the match must submit a team sheet to be awarded the Premiership points.

25. CLUB APPOINTED FIELD UMPIRE

25.1. When an Official Field Umpire is unable to be appointed, the HOME CLUB is to provide a competent Field Umpire. The Club Appointed Umpire will be deemed to be an Official Umpire with the FULL POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. Club appointed goal and boundary umpires do not have the power to order any players from the field.

26. STRETCHER REQUIRED FOR INJURED PLAYER/S

26.1. Once the need for a stretcher has been brought to the Umpire's attention, he must stop play immediately. The player can be removed at any point of the playing arena, play then resumes at the point where play stopped. If the injured player is later fit to resume he must proceed through the interchange area.

27. TEAM LISTS FOR FINAL SERIES

27.1. Team lists for Final Series must be received by the AAFL Executive by the Monday after the second last Home and Away round of the season.
27.2. Applications for dispensation (as to eligibility to play in the Finals Series) must be received by the AAFL Secretary by the Monday after the second last home and away round of the season.

28. CLUB DUTY ROSTER FOR FINAL SERIES

28.1. Clubs will be rostered to do duty during the AAFL Final Series. Clubs who do not supply Officials to do duty will be fined on each occasion that these Officials are not supplied.

29. AAFL CLUB ALLOWANCE

29.1. Should fines be imposed and not be paid by the due date, the amount of the fines shall be deducted from the Club Allowance.

30. BY-LAWS

30.1. The promulgation, application, administration, interpretation, repeal, amendment or any other act in relation to these By-Laws shall be the responsibility of the AAFL. The discretion of the AAFL Executive shall prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.

31. CLUB DELEGATES

31.1. Each club is to appoint 3 delegates to the AAFL, one of which is to attend AAFL meetings held at the NZAFL Offices, 160 Rockfield Rd, at 7pm on the second Monday of each month, except January. Clubs will be fined for non-attendance without prior notification to the AAFL Executive.

32. OFFENCES WHICH MAY ATTRACT FINES

32.1. Non compliance with the Rules herein may attract fines up to the amounts detailed below:
Rule 4.1 - \$100 and up to \$400 per offence
Rule 5.2 & 5.3 & 5.4 - \$50
Rule 6 - \$50
Rule 7 - \$50
Rule 10.2 - \$50
Rule 16.1 - \$20
Rule 20.1 - \$50
Rule 23.1 & 23.2 & 23.3- \$200
Rule 24.1- \$100
Rule 27.1- \$50
Rule 28.1- \$50

33. CLUBS FEES

33.1. Each Club that wishes to participate in the AAFL is required to pay an Affiliation Fee as approved at the AAFL AGM.

Appendix "B" TRIBUNAL BY-LAWS

General:

1. All persons summoned to a Tribunal hearing by a report of an Umpire, are required to be in attendance at such time as directed by the League.
2. All Tribunal hearings shall be conducted at such venue as advised to Club delegates from time to time, or at such other place as may be notified.
3. The Tribunal shall consist of persons to be appointed by the Board prior to the commencement of each season, including a Chairman.
4. The Tribunal shall have the power to hear and determine all Field charges laid by an Umpire, officer of the AAFL and referred directly to the President.
5. The Tribunal may, at its absolute discretion, adjourn any case which may subsequently be heard as soon as possible.
6. The Tribunal may refer any question arising in relation to a matter of interpretation of any binding Rules or By-laws, or a question of any non-factual nature, to the Committee, and shall do so upon request by any party to the relevant hearing.
7. The Tribunal shall hear Field charges and shall be constituted by a quorum of at least three (3) member of the Independent Tribunal, one of whom shall be designated a Chairman by the members sitting who shall introduce himself as such at the commencement of any hearing by that Tribunal.
8. The Tribunal shall not be bound by the rules or laws of evidence.
9. The Tribunal shall notify the President of all decisions and determinations within forty-eight (48) hours of such decisions and determinations being recorded.
10. All decisions and determinations of the Independent Tribunal shall be final and binding, and shall not be varied or rescinded upon any motion by any party or representative party thereof, and shall not be subject to any appeal or review.
11. The Tribunal Chairman shall report to the Committee, any player, Club Official or supporter who misconducts themselves within the precincts in which Tribunal hearing is conducted, and the Board shall deal with all such reports of misconduct, and shall impose penalties as it deems appropriate.

ADVOCATE:

13. All parties subject to a Field charge or charges shall have the right to be represented by any person associated with the Club with which the player is registered, provided that person's name appears in the records of the President as a duly appointed Club Official or Club Committee member, and which shall:-
 - a) be referred to as the player's "advocate";
 - b) not be excluded from the hearing under any circumstances whatsoever, subject to that person's fitness and authority to act as an advocate;
 - c) have the right to cross-examine any witnesses called on behalf of the person charged;
 - d) have the rights to examine and re-examine witnesses called on behalf of the person charged;
 - e) have the right to sum up the case of the person charged;
 - f) not be a person who is, in the opinion of the Committee, legally qualified.
14. No person charged shall have the right to legal representation.

15. PROCEDURE AND EVIDENCE AT TRIBUNAL HEARINGS

- a) The Tribunal should enter the hearing room and through and through the Chairman declare to those present that the hearing by the Tribunal will now commence;
- b) Advise those present the names of the Tribunal members;
- c) Invite the Player's advocate and the Umpire's advocate to announce their appearance;
- d) Ask the advocates whether they have any legal qualifications;
- e) Read the charges to the Player on at a time and at the end of each charge ask the Player whether he pleads guilty or not guilty;
- f) Ask all witnesses, other than the person laying the charges (Umpire) and the accused (Player) to leave the precincts of the hearing room;
- g) The umpire then gives his account of what happened (outline the facts relating to the charges) (evidence in chief);
- h) Witness is questioned by the Player's advocate (cross examination);
- i) Witness is re-examined by the Umpire's advocate i.e.. limited to asking questions to clarify, explain or arising out of some point raised in cross-examination and nothing else;

- j) Tribunal question the witness (if desired);
- k) The advocates should be invited to ask questions of the witness arising out of questions asked by Tribunal members;
- l) Other witnesses in support of the charges then give evidence in like manner to g), h), i), j), and k);
- m) Player's witnesses (including Player if he so desires) give evidence (evidence in chief);
- n) Umpires advocate questions the witness (cross examination);
- o) Witness is re-examined by the Players Advocate in like manner to i);
- p) Tribunal members question the witness (if desired);
- q) The advocates should be invited to ask questions arising out of questions asked by the Tribunal members;
- r) Other witnesses for the Player then in turn give evidence in like manner to m), n), o), p), and q);
- s) At the completion of all evidence the Player's advocate should be invited to sum up and make any submissions he wishes to make to influence the Tribunal's finding;
- t) Tribunal retires to consider whether the charges are proved or not;
- u) Hearing reopens when the Chairman announces the Tribunal's decision as to guilt or otherwise on each charge;
- v) If the player is found guilty, the Players advocate should be invited to make submissions on penalty, produce character witnesses or tender documents in relation to character and the like;
- w) Tribunal retires then to consider penalty;
- x) Tribunal reopens, Chairman announces penalty imposed.

16 In regard to taking evidence:-

- a) Evidence by witnesses should be limited to what they saw or heard and not what someone told them
- b) Questions should be relevant to what happened, to what was said or done. Cross examination of witnesses as to their credit (honesty) should be permitted;
- c) Once an advocate has an answer to a question from the witness he should be restrained from asking the same question again, if in doubt allow the question to be put. The Tribunal should not only be fair to all parties in the conduct of the hearing but should also appear to be fair;
- d) Within the above limitations, advocates should be permitted to present their case in the manner they think appropriate. When considering whether the charges are proven or not, the Tribunal should accept matters raised and not disputed and facts not denied.

Conflicting evidence should be considered in light of the demeanour of the witness, e.g.

- Was the witness candid or were the recollections selective;
- Did it occur in an endeavour to make the case better for one conclusion or was it in the nature of a genuine mistake or understanding
- The number of witnesses giving evidence, while important, should not be the criteria for determining whether a charge is proven or not;
- What is important is that the Tribunal should come to a conclusion on evidence which in its mind is believable and convicting.

**BREACHES OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME
MINIMUM PENALTIES**

For certain reportable offences, players may elect to accept an automatic suspension as prescribed by the umpires, unless the offence is referred to the tribunal.

OFFENCE	MINIMUM PENALTIES
Disputes the decision of an Umpire	Send Off
Uses abusive, threatening and insulting language	Send Off
Throws a player after that player has taken a mark or after the ball is otherwise out of play	Send Off
Violently pushes a player after that player has disposed of the ball	Send Off
Charges an Opponent	One Week
Engages in unduly rough play	One Week
Strikes an Opponent with a swinging arm and/or clenched fist to the body which the Umpire deems to be an over zealous tackle.	One Week
Intentionally trips or attempts to trip an opponent	One Week
Strikes an Opponent with a swinging arm and /or clenched fist above the neck.	Two Weeks

All other offences which shall include, but not be limited to:

Assault of Players and Officials
Intentional kicking of an Opponent, Umpire or Official
Misconduct
Bringing the game into disrepute
shall be referred to the Tribunal at a date to be set.

With the exception of "other offences" the following procedure will be adopted:

- (1) Umpires shall report and charge players in the usual manner, but the report shall not be heard by the Tribunal, unless requested by the reported player or official of the Club.
- (2) Such request shall be made to the AAFL Secretary NOT LATER THAN 12 NOON on the Monday immediately following the match.
- (3) IF the Tribunal subsequently finds the charge sustained, it shall have the power to impose such penalty as it deems fit.

If a penalty specified by the umpires is to be accepted it has to be signed by:

- 1 The player receiving the suspension,
- 2 The reporting umpire;
- 3 If the offence involves the other team the player offended against or a club representative is to sign. If the penalty is greater than the minimum penalty and is not accepted by the player, then the case will be heard by the tribunal.

18 REPEAT OFFENDERS

A player who is reported MORE THAN ONCE during a season, shall forfeit the right to accept a set penalty, and shall automatically appear before the Independent Tribunal.